

I am very concerned about the Banes proposal to create 9 permanent traveller's pitches on Camerton Play Park.

As a primary school teacher in a local school, in fact having taught many children that live in Camerton at present I find it extremely surprising that Banes would even consider removing such a facility, in reality disadvantaging our local children. I have recently attended the launch of the Director of Public Health Award, an award developed locally to encourage local children and young people to adopt healthy lifestyles- of which a key element is raising their activity level. At the launch of this award one of your cabinet ministers, Nathan Hartley, spoke very eloquently about his own experiences as an overweight young adult. This valued award replaces a national scheme 'Healthy Schools', which was a victim of central government cutbacks. However, Banes decided to champion this cause by prioritizing the health of our young people. The latest health profile for Banes shows that 17% of our 10 and 11 year olds are obese? So I ask you councillors, how can our one and only safe and well used play park possibly be considered for redevelopment into a traveller's site. Local people have worked together to develop, use and to secure its future. I ask you to reconsider and to put the health and well being of our children first. As the famous children's author AA Milne says, "A bear however hard he tries grows tubby without exercise".

Thank you for your consideration.

Alison Ginty